

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 8550

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: IEA JUNE 30 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO DAVIGNON FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS.

2. ON BASIS OF OUR BILATERAL CONTACTS WITH OTHER IEA COUNTRIES SINCE OUR MEETING AT VAL DUCHESSE, IT SEEMS TO US THAT JUNE 30 MEETING IS SHAPING UP AS POTENTIALLY ONE OF MOST DIFFICULT AND CERTAINLY ONE OF MOST IMPORTANT WE HAVE HAD THUS FAR IN IEA. IN ADDITION TO DECISIONS ON LONG-TERM PROGRAM, WE MUST RESOLVE OUTSTANDING ISSUES IN EMERGENCY PROGRAM, SUCH AS TARGET DATE FOR 90 DAY STOCK COMMITMENT, AND AGREGATION ISSUE CONCERNING OIL MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEM. ALSO, WE WILL HAVE TO ENGAGE IN FURTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND COORDINATION OF POSITIONS ON RESUMPTION OF DIALOGUE WITH PRODUCERS.

3. I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY IN ADVANCE OF JUNE 30 MEETING TO RE-EMPHASIZE TO YOU PERSONALLY IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO LONG-TERM PROGRAM AND THAT WE WISH TO ENGAGE IN SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES CITED IN SLT REPORT. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT A SERIOUS LONG-TERM PROGRAM IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO CONTINUED VITALITY OF THE IEA. WE RECOGNIZE THAT SOME OF THESE ISSUES POST
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SUBSTANTIAL PROBLEMS FOR SOME DELEGATIONS BUT BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE SERIOUS ERROR NOT TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THEM AT THIS MEETING.

4. AS I INDICATED IN BRUSSELS, WE BELIEVE WE MUST AIM FOR AD REFERENDUM AGREEMENT AT THIS MEETING ON ALL ELEMENTS OF LONG-TERM PACKAGE, INCLUDING THE OVERALL MECHANISM FOR THE MSP. HOWEVER, WE ARE PREPARED TO SEPARATE FROM THIS PACKAGE THE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE ISSUE OF THE ACTUAL LEVEL OF THE MSP. WE WOULD AGREE AMONG OURSELVES ON A PROCESS WHEREBY THE ACTUAL LEVEL WOULD BE AGREED UPON AFTER THIS YEAR, HAVING CITED INFORMALLY AMONG OURSELVES NOW AN ILLUSTRATIVE BUT LIMITING RANGE. IN MEANTIME, WE WOULD REMAND TEXT TO LAWYERS AND SLT FOR FURTHER TECHNICAL WORK AS NECESSARY.

5. WE DO NOT WISH TO CREATE IMPRESSION THAT MSP IS CENTRAL ELEMENT OF LONG TERM PROGRAM NOR TO GIVE IT UNDUE PROMINENCE. OVER TIME R AND D AND PROJECT BY PROJECT COOPERATION WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE OF GREATER IMPORTANCE TO OUR REDUCED DEPENDENCE GOALS. BUT MSP ESSENTIAL TO COHERENCE AND CONSISTENCY OF OUR OVERALL COOPERATION WITHOUT WHICH WE WOULD BE UNABLE TO STRIKE BALANCE OF ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES IN EITHER LONG-TERM PROGRAM OR OVERALL CONSUMER COOPERATION. THUS, IT STANDS AS FUNDAMENTAL TEST OF OUR SOLIDARITY.

6. ON A PROCEDURAL NOTE, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT GIVEN THE NUMBER OF COMPLEX AGENDA ITEMS YOU CONSIDER ADVISABILITY OF EXTENDING MEETING BEYOND JULY 1 IF NECESSARY. I HOPE TO HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THESE ISSUES WITH YOU PERSONALLY BEFORE MEETING BEGINS ON JUNE 30, BUT THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT TO GIVE YOU OUR CURRENT THINKING NOW.
HODGSON

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